



Friday Five



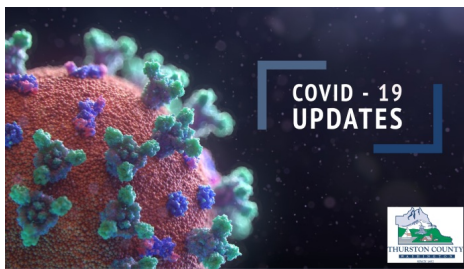
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COVID-19 Update



In Past Seven Days:

New Cases: 808

Hospitalized: 8

Deaths: 20

Since Pandemic Began:

Cases: 43,443

Hospitalized: 1,990

Deaths: 313

Recovered/Recovering: 41,203

You can find COVID-19 vaccination events offered by Public Health & Social Services on the [county vaccine information webpage](#).

But first....



Black History Month Spotlight: Before Larry Jefferson was appointed by the justices of the Washington Supreme Court as the Director of the state Office of Public Defense, he was a public defense attorney in

Thurston County for more than 16 years! During his time at Thurston County, he helped establish the county's pretrial diversion program, First Look program, and much more! He was also the recipient of the 2020 Thurston County Bigelow (Best Attorney) Award and the Local Hero Award from the Washington

1

State Indoor Mask Mandate to end March 21



The governor announced the end of the state's indoor masking mandate during a press conference on Thursday, February 17.

On Thursday, February 17, Governor Inslee announced the state's indoor mask mandate will end for most indoor establishments on Monday, March 21. When the indoor mask mandate is lifted, masks will no longer be required in schools, childcare facilities, libraries, restaurants, bars, gyms, indoor athletic centers, grocery stores, or retail establishments. However, private businesses and local governments can still require masks for their employees, customers, or residents.

The state's outdoor masking mandate ended today. Some individuals may chose to continue masking. We encourage all residents to treat one another with compassion and respect regardless of choices around masking or vaccinations. You can [learn more about COVID-19 in Thurston County here](#).

2

Thurston County ADA Transition Plan



Foot travel is used by nearly everyone and is a critical link to everyday life for many. Thurston County roadways have features to improve safety for those that walk, run, and wheel.

Thurston County Public Works is updating the county's Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, Transportation Plan. If you live with a disability or support someone who does, we want to hear about the challenges you have getting around Thurston County. You can [watch a video about the plan and complete a short questionnaire here](#). If you need help with this feature, prefer to give comments in another way, or want a copy of the plan, please contact Becky Conn at (360) 867-2349 or becky.conn@co.thurston.wa.us.

Public Works developed this transportation plan to improve policies and procedures, road standards, and roadway features like sidewalks and curb ramps, for people living with disabilities. This plan shows improvements that have been made, places needing further improvements, and outlines a timeline for future projects. Areas for improvement in the new plan include:

- How Public Works responds to requests
- Operation and design of traffic signals
- Updating ADA standards for county roads
- Adding curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian features to road standards
- Updating 1,862 curb ramps and 161,017 feet of sidewalk



Thurston County's 2022 total property taxes assessed for all jurisdictions is \$536,215,769.

2022 property tax notices were mailed out to Thurston County taxpayers on Wednesday, February 9. Property tax amounts can be viewed and paid through the Thurston County Treasurer's web site at: www.thurstoncountywa.gov/treasurer. Payments can also be made by electronic check on the Treasurer's website with no additional fee. You can also pay by major credit card - which has an additional 2.35% transaction fee - or a VISA Debit card that has a flat fee of \$3.95. Thurston County receives none of this transaction fee.

Taxpayers are encouraged to make payments online, by mail, over the phone, or at the county courthouse parking lot drop box – located at 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Building One in Olympia. Payments can also be made in person, but social distancing guidelines limit the capacity in the building. The same card transaction fees apply for payments made in person or over the phone. Treasurer's Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payments made by mail must be postmarked by the due date. You can learn more about property taxes in [this episode of Coffee With A Commissioner](#).

4

Free Healthy Homes and Garden Workshops



The Healthy Homes Program offers free and confidential guidance and education to residents and child care centers in Thurston County.

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services' Community Wellness Division is announcing five environmental health education workshops to help participants learn more about maintaining healthy living spaces, both inside and outside. The workshops are free and supported in part by the Washington State Department of Ecology's Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Program. For more information about the Healthy Homes Program, please visit the [Healthy Homes Program webpage](#).

You can sign up for as many of the workshops as you like. Each workshop has a different area of focus. They are:

- Creating a Healthy Home, Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Register: [bit.ly/SpringWorkshop1](#)
- Dealing with Mold at Home, Thursday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Register: [bit.ly/SpringWorkshop2](#)
- How to Protect Kids from Chemicals of Concern, Monday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Register: [bit.ly/SpringWorkshop-3](#)
- Easy Ways to Get Your Yard Ready for Spring, Tuesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Register: [bit.ly/SpringWorkshop-4](#)
- Get Growing! Veggies, Berries, and More, Thursday, March 31, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Register: [bit.ly/SpringWorkshop-5](#)

5

County Offices Closed Monday for Presidents' Day



The holiday was originally established in 1885 to recognize President George Washington. However, the holiday became popularly known Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of the 1971 Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Today, it is popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

Thurston County government offices will be closed on Monday, February 21, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday. All offices will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, February 22. The county's Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) in Lacey is open for normal business hours (7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.). If you're planning on some spring cleaning over the Presidents' Day holiday, check out [the updated Where Do I Take My? webpage](#) to see where you can dispose of, recycle, or donate common household items. By visiting this webpage, you can learn how to keep things like mattresses out of the landfill and in use for someone else.

All county parks and trails are open over the holiday. This includes Burfoot Park, Frye Cove Park, Kenneydell Park, Deschutes Falls Park, and the Off-Leash Dog Park at the WARC. Please only call 9-1-1 for emergencies. If you live in unincorporated Thurston County, you can call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at [\(360\) 704-2740](tel:3607042740) for non-emergency issues like noise complaints.

Before you go....



Thurston County's new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Pilot program, or LEAD, is about six months into operation, and already it has diverted more than 100 people from the law and justice system toward services that may lead to more positive outcomes for the individuals and wider community. You can learn more about LEAD in [this episode of Coffee With A Commissioner](#), hosted by Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser.

We're embarking on our own Lord of The Rings adventure this year, and we need your help! Thurston County is redesigning the current county website, and to help make sure the new site meets your needs, we're seeking input. If you use the county website at www.thurstoncountywa.gov in the next several weeks and get a survey pop-up, please consider taking it! ☐: Hobbiton Movie Set in New Zealand, by Thomas Schweighofer.

Weekend Weather Report



Saturday, February 19: Rain, with a high near 47.

Sunday, February 20: Showers, with a high near 47.

Monday, February 21 (Presidents' Day): Rain and mostly cloudy, with a high near 44.

Report obtained from the [National Weather Service](#)

